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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor

Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

## Employment Trends

### September Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for September was 4.8 percent. This is one percentage point below the national rate of 5.8 percent.

3,051,200 million Hoosiers were employed during September.

Indiana's September unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.8 percent; Ohio, 5.5 percent; Illinois, 6.6 percent; and Kentucky at 5.3 percent.

### October Unemployment Rate

Indiana's non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for October was 4.7 percent. This is nine-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate of 5.6 percent.

3,060,600 million Hoosiers were employed during October.

Indiana's October unemployment rate was lower than Michigan, 6.9 percent; Ohio, 5.1 percent; Illinois, 6.1 percent; and Kentucky at 5.3 percent.

### October Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 10-13-03	..	58,579
Week of 10-11-03	..	58,526
Week of 10-18-03	..	57,342
Week of 10-25-03	..	57,881

### November Unemployment Insurance Stats

Number of UI Claims Filed:

Week of 11-1-03	...	58,639
Week of 11-8-03	...	58,770
Week of 11-15-03	...	58,961
Week of 11-22-03	...	61,665
Week of 11-29-03	...	58,479

## JOBS Facts

### Job Opportunities Business Services

The 21st Century JOBS Initiative will help Hoosier workers and employers help themselves and will improve the quality of our employment services throughout the state.

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# Developments

HOOSIER WORKERS & LIFELONG LEARNING ONLINE NEWS

## Breaking News

### DWD honors 36 individuals and six partners

The Department of Workforce Development honored 36 individual Hoosiers with a personal achievement award and six partners for outstanding achievement while participating in Indiana's workforce development system. Alan Degner, commissioner of DWD presented the awards along with Jeffrey Howe, chair of the Workforce Investment Board Association. The ceremony and awards presentation took place November 20 in the State House Rotunda.

"These individuals overcame great obstacles to meet their goals. Their personal stories are inspiring and their dedication to the Hoosier tradition of hard work deserves this celebration. The businesses we honored enabled Hoosiers to overcome barriers and find meaningful work," Degner said.

"Each of you has taken part in the American dream," Howe remarked. "A dream that each person has the opportunity to develop to his or her fullest. I believe that one of the primary sources of happiness in one's life is the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."

### Tool-and-die industry receives an Advance Indiana grant

DWD awarded an Advance Indiana grant to the the Southwestern Indiana Small Business Development Center which is hosted by the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce and the University of Southern Indiana. The \$128,470 grant will benefit five tool-and-die companies and two other companies with tool-and-die departments. Approximately 70 employees will benefit from training.

Tool-and-die shops across the country have faced the struggle for survival against foreign competition. The shops, often with 20 or fewer employees, make molds and tools used for production processes throughout the manufacturing industry. In the Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois tri-state area as many as 500 tool-and-die workers have lost their jobs in the past few years.

Just-in-time techniques will be used to provide quick instruction on techniques applicable to company initiatives and projects. Upon completion of training, each employee will receive a 10-Core Indiana Skills Certificate of Technical Achievement in Advanced Manufacturing. The training will help companies reduce costs and improve efficiency, and help the small tool-and-die companies survive.

### DWD welcomes two new members to the executive staff

Two new members are welcomed to the Department of Workforce Development team. Michael Draper came on board as the Deputy commissioner of Economic Development and Jeff Harris joined Marketing and Communications as agency Press Secretary.

Draper brings with him a strong knowledge of economic development issues. He has served as director of both the Office of Economic Development and the Development Finance Division, and Deputy Director of the Business Development Division for the Department of Commerce.

Harris has an extensive background in public affairs, communications and media. He most recently worked for the Department of Commerce as Director of Media Relations. DWD welcomes the knowledge and expertise of both these individuals.